

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297902

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE ARE POUCHING A TRANSITION PAPER SUBMITTED ON
REQUEST DECEMBER 6 DEALING WITH AN OVERVIEW OF US-SOVIET
RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR TOON HAS SEEN. OTHERS WHICH
HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM US:

-- TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF
SOVIET ECONOMIC SITUATION AND STATUS OF US-SOVIET
GRAIN AGREEMENT.

-- HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING EMIGRATION
PRACTICES (LINKAGE TO TRADE ISSUES) AND THE HELSINKI
COMMISSION.

-- SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND STRATEGY.

-- ANALYSIS OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

-- SOVIET RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE.

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ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS.

-- SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULTATIONS REGARDING UN.

2. AMBASSADOR TOON ASKS THAT STARTING SATURDAY YOU SEND MOST OF YOUR REPORTING CABLES TO TEL AVIV SLUGGED FOR HIM.

3. FROM THE AMBASSADOR: DECEMBER 30 FROM ROME WILL BE FINE. I LEAVE TO YOU THE CHOICE BETWEEN VIENNA AND COPENHAGEN FOR A REFUELING STOP (AND PRESUMABLY PICK UP SOVIET ESCORT). MY CARGO FROM ROME WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF COMMISSARY SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO RE-STOCK SPASO, WHICH YOUR PEOPLE CAN ESTIMATE. SUGGEST THEY GET IN TOUCH WITH NORMA REIS IN TEL AVIV ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. CABLE TURNING DOWN LEAVE WENT TODAY.

5. FOR GROSS: IF YOU ARE STILL COMING TO THE US ON LEAVE, PLEASE LET US KNOW AHEAD OF TIME WHEN YOU EXPECT TO BE IN WASHINGTON. IF YOU WISH, WE COULD SET UP LUNCH OR A MEETING WITH KAVALEROV AND SOME OF HIS CREW. WE WOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO SET UP ANY APPOINTMENTS YOU MIGHT WISH WITH OFFICES SUCH AS SCA AND VO.

6. ON A US VIP FOR THE TBILISI EXHIBIT OPENING, USIA HAS NOT THOUGHT IT PRACTICAL TO OFFER AN INVITATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE TRAVEL OVER CHRISTMAS, ESPECIALLY WITH LEAD TIME CUT SHORT BY THE EARLIER DELAY ON SITE SELECTION. JOCK SHIRLEY REVIEWED THE SITUATION SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND CAME DOWN HARD ON A DECISION NOT TO SEND ANYONE. WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO TURN THEM AROUND, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. IF WE DID SUCCEED IN TWISTING THEIR ARM YOU WOULD PROBABLY SET A NON-VIP, AND MAYBE NONE IS BETTER THAN THAT. ROBINSON

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